

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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Central Intelligence Bulletin

DEPT OF STATE review(s) completed.

Top Secret

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23 May 1967

Approved For Release 2003/04/18 : CIA-RDP79T00975A009900200001-0 25X1

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Communist China - Hong Kong: The Hong Kong Government is taking stronger actions against Communist-led disorders in the colony.

Yesterday, the government banned all unauthorized public processions and meetings in an effort to prevent further clashes between demonstrators and police. The Communists probably will defy the ban and attempt to continue demonstrations. A Communist newspaper has called on its readers to refuse to obey "imperial laws."

The police used gas and truncheons to disperse mobs attempting to demonstrate yesterday at the governor's residence in an effort to counter the growing Communist unrest. Several serious injuries resulted from the police action. The casualties, especially if any deaths result, are certain to add fuel to Communist charges of police brutality.

A conflict of interest may be developing in local Communist circles between the political radical elements and those with commercial interests. Some local Communist businessmen appear anxious to avoid severe disruptions to the colony's economic life. The British presumably hope that these groups will soon regain influence over the activists.

Peking, in its latest move to maintain pressure on the British, announced yesterday that it had ordered the closure of the British representative's office in Shanghai. The representative will join the British Embassy in Peking. The office, which was sacked by rioters on 16 May, had been limited to one man since September 1965.

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India: New Delhi is becoming increasingly concerned over the public security situation in West Bengal.

Deputy Prime Minister Morarji Desai fears that Communist members of the West Bengal government—the largest element in the 13-party coalition—are determined to create a revolutionary situation. Desai recently told Ambassador Bowles that the central government would intervene to prevent this, but only when the onus could clearly be placed on the Communists.

A premature move by the central government or by the local Congress Party organization could precipitate large-scale violence, especially in Calcutta, because the United Front (UF) government is popular and the Congress Party still discredited. The developing food crisis could rapidly reduce the popularity of the UF, however, unless it succeeds in placing the blame on New Delhi.

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